

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically controlling fraud in an electronic transaction system, comprising the steps of:

~~when a user initiates a session in the electronic transaction system~~[[,]]  
generating an element and storing the element in a database in association with information identifying ~~the~~ a session initiated by a user when the user initiates the session in the electronic transaction system;

each time during the session that the user commands the execution of an operation, determining an equation that is satisfied by the element stored in the database;

~~when a sufficient given number of operations has been effected~~[[,]]  
solving ~~the~~ a system of independent equations ~~consisting of the~~ comprising the determined equations ~~determined as above~~ to deduce the element therefrom when a number of the determined equations is greater than a number of authorized operations; and

~~by consulting the database~~[[,]] deducing from the obtained element, ~~obtained in this way the~~ by consulting the database, corresponding the associated information identifying the user that initiated the session.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the independent equations are linear equations.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the element ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a series of numerical coefficients.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the series of numerical coefficients defines an equation of a hyperplane having (n-1) dimensions in a space having n dimensions and, ~~each time~~ when the user commands the execution of ~~an~~ the operation, the step of determining ~~an~~ the equation ~~consists in~~ comprises determining ~~the~~ coordinates  $(X_i^1, X_i^2, \dots, X_i^n)$  of a point in the hyperplane having (n-1) dimensions in the space having n dimensions.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the series of numerical coefficients defines an equation of a line in a space having two dimensions and, ~~each time~~ when the user commands the execution of ~~an~~ the operation, the step of determining ~~an~~ the equation ~~consists in~~ comprises determining ~~the~~ coordinates  $(X_i, Y_i)$  ~~belonging~~ which belong to ~~that~~ the line.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the series of numerical coefficients defines ~~the~~ coordinates  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$  of a point in a space having n dimensions and, ~~each time~~ when the user commands the execution of ~~an~~ the operation, the step of determining ~~an~~ the equation ~~consists in~~ comprises determining the equation of a hyperplane containing the point in the space having n dimensions.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, wherein the series of numerical coefficients defines ~~the~~ coordinates  $(X_1, X_2)$  of a point in a space having two

dimensions and, ~~each time~~ when the user commands the execution of ~~an~~ the operation, the step of determining ~~an~~ the equation ~~consists in~~ further comprises determining ~~the~~ an equation of a line (D<sub>i</sub>) passing through the point in the space having two dimensions.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically controlling fraud in an electronic transaction system, comprising:

first calculation means ~~(108)~~ for generating an element when a user ~~(300)~~ initiates a session in the electronic transaction system ~~(200)~~;

a database ~~(104)~~ in which the element is stored in association with information identifying the session initiated by a user, the first calculation means ~~(108)~~ being ~~adapted~~ configured to define, each time that the user commands execution of an operation during the session, determine an equation that is satisfied by the element stored in the database; and ~~(104)~~ ~~satisfies each time the user (300) commands the execution of an operation in the session; and~~

second calculation means ~~(110)~~ ~~adapted~~ configured to solve ~~the~~ a system of independent equations comprising ~~consisting of~~ the equations defined ~~determined by the first calculation means as above~~ to deduce the element therefrom when a ~~sufficient given~~ number ~~(n)~~ of the defined equations is greater than a number of authorized operations ~~has been effected~~[[,]] so that, by consulting the database ~~(104)~~, it is possible to deduce from the element obtained ~~in this way the corresponding~~ the associated information ~~identifying which identifies~~ the user that initiated the session ~~(300)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program executed by a computer that causes automatic control of fraud in an electronic transaction system, the computer program comprising:

program-code ~~instructions~~ for generating an element and storing the element in a database in association with information identifying a session initiated by a user when the user initiates [[a]] the session in the electronic transaction system;

program-code for defining, each time during the session that the user commands execution of an operation, an equation that is satisfied by the element stored in the database;

program-code for solving a system of independent equations comprising the defined equations to deduce the element therefrom when a number of the defined equations is greater than a number of authorized operations; and

program-code for deducing from the obtained element, by consulting the database, the associated information identifying the user that initiated the session.  
~~executing steps of the method according to claim 1 when said program is executed on a computer[[.]]~~

11. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the element is dependent on the number of authorized operations for the user during the session.